

## **U S RAIL Corporation**

7846 Central Ave Toledo OH 43617 Ph: 419.720.7588 Fax: 419.720.7589

June 14, 2006

Representative John Dingell Senator Carl Levin Senator Debbie Stabenow

## Dear Members of Congress:

On June 1, 2006 I was given responsibility for Intermodal Operations, including our Erie Project. I write in response to your inquiry dated May 30, 2006, and received by our company on June 7, 2006. The following is our response:

- 1. Railroads have eminent domain authority under state law, 1980 Public Acts No. 87.
- 2. The boundaries for the Intermodal project are not yet final. However the preliminary boundaries are I-75 on the East, the CN railroad on the West, Cousino Road on the North and Erie Road on the South.
- 3. Currently, no other entity will hold ownership in the project.
- 4. The NEPA will be dealt with in our application to the Surface Transportation Board (STB). We anticipate completing our NEPA process sometime in September, 2006, and submitting our application soon thereafter.
- 5. We are not sure what federal permits will be required at this stage of the project.
- 6. We are currently evaluating what, if any, state permits may be needed.
- 7. At this time, we do not believe that we will need any local permits for the project. However, this subject is still under review.
- 8. Once we have completed a proposed final plan, we will announce an open meeting for the public to express its views. We will establish a project web-site in the near future.

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- 9. We are forecasting approximately 700 jobs within 48 months after the project opens. We anticipate approximately 60 railroad, 240 rail ramp, and 400 various truck related jobs. We have established a wage package starting at \$12.00 per hour for entry level, while some jobs will pay a top rate of \$28.00 per hour. We will also offer a highly competitive benefit package. Our annual Michigan payroll is estimated at \$25-\$30 million dollars when we are fully ramped-up.
- 10. The financing for the project has been in place for some time, and remains so today.
- 11. Our target date is fall, 2007. This date may change.

We will cooperate with your staff in any way that we are able. We will keep your offices informed of the progress on this project.

very ruly jours,

John Hall

Executive Vice President Intermodal Operations

cc: Michigan State Representative Angerer

JH/ck